

being held at a position in a vicinity of one of a dimensional center and a center of gravity thereof; and

a second actuator for moving the object along a second axis different from the first axis.

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3. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 1, wherein the first actuator comprises a pair of stacked piezoelectric actuators and a connection member for connecting the stacked piezoelectric actuators in series.

5. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 3, wherein the second actuator comprises a stacked piezoelectric actuator which is extendable along the second axis.

6. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 3, wherein the second actuator has a pair of end portions, and one of the end portions is connected to the first actuator.

7. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 3, wherein the second actuator is held at a position in a vicinity of one of a dimensional center and a center of gravity thereof.

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9. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 3, further comprising a third actuator for moving the object along a third axis different from both the first axis and the second axis.

11. (Amended) The scanning unit according claim 9,
wherein:

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the second actuator has a pair of end portions, one of the
end portions being connected to the first actuator, and the other
5 one of the end portions being fixed, and

the third actuator has a pair of end portions, one of the
end portions being connected to the first actuator, and the other
one of the end portions being fixed.

12. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 9,
wherein:

the second actuator is held at a position in a vicinity of
one of a dimensional center and a center of gravity thereof, and

5 the third actuator is held at a position in a vicinity of
one of a dimensional center and a center of gravity thereof.

13. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 12,
wherein:

the second actuator has a pair of end portions, one of the
end portions being brought into contact with a portion close to
5 an end portion of the first actuator to which the object is
attached, and

the third actuator has a pair of end portions, one of the
end portions being brought into contact with a portion close to
the end portion of the first actuator to which the object is
10 attached.

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cont.

14. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 9,
wherein the second actuator and the third actuator comprise a
common cylindrical piezoelectric actuator.

15. (Amended) A scanning unit for moving an object to be
moved, comprising:

5 a first actuator for moving the object along a first axis,
the first actuator having a pair of end portions, the object
being attached to one of the end portions, and the first actuator
being held at a position in a vicinity of one of a dimensional
center and a center of gravity thereof;

a movable member for holding the first actuator;

10 a second actuator for moving the movable member along a
second axis different from the first axis; and

a first guide mechanism for restricting movement of the
movable member along the first axis.

16. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 15,
wherein the second actuator comprises a pair of stacked
piezoelectric actuators which are extendable along the second
axis, and each of the stacked piezoelectric actuators has a pair
5 of end portions, one of the end portions being connected to the
movable member through the first guide mechanism.

17. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 16,
wherein the first guide mechanism comprises a pair of elastic

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members provided on both sides of the movable member along the
second axis.

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19. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 18,
wherein:

the second actuator comprises a pair of stacked
piezoelectric actuators which are extendable along the second
5 axis, each of the stacked piezoelectric actuators having a pair
of end portions, one of the end portions being connected to the
movable member through the first guide mechanism, and the other
one of the end portions being fixed, and

the third actuator comprises a pair of stacked piezoelectric
10 actuators which are extendable along the third axis, each of the
stacked piezoelectric actuators having a pair of end portions,
one of the end portions being connected to the movable member
through the second guide mechanism, and the other one of the end
portions being fixed.

20. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 19,
wherein the first guide mechanism comprises a pair of elastic
members provided on both sides of the movable member along the
second axis, and the second guide mechanism comprises a pair of
5 elastic members provided on both sides of the movable member
along the third axis.

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21. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 20,
wherein the end portion of the stacked piezoelectric actuator of
the second actuator connected to the movable member is connected
to the movable member through one of the elastic members of the
5 first guide mechanism, and the end portion of the stacked
piezoelectric actuator of the third actuator connected to the
movable member is connected to the movable member through one of
the elastic members of the second guide mechanism.

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23. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 22,
wherein the elastic members of the first guide mechanism each
include a rectangular spring having an elongated slit extending
along the third axis, and the elastic members of the second guide
5 mechanism each include a rectangular spring having an elongated
slit extending along the second axis.

24. (Amended) The scanning unit according to claim 9,
further comprising a movable member which supports the second
actuator and which is supported by the third actuator,

wherein the second actuator has a pair of end portions, one
5 of the end portions being connected to the first actuator, and
the other one of the end portions being connected to the movable
member, and

wherein the third actuator has a pair of end portions, one
of the end portions being connected to the movable member, and
10 the other one of the end portions being fixed.

ab 38. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 6, wherein the other end portion of the second actuator is fixed.

39. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 22, wherein the elastic members of the first guide mechanism include parallel springs supporting the movable member to be displaced along the second axis, and the elastic members of the second guide
5 mechanism include parallel springs supporting the movable member to be displaced along the third axis.

40. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 15, wherein the first actuator comprises a pair of stacked piezoelectric actuators and a connection member for connecting the stacked piezoelectric actuators in series.

41. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 15, wherein the second actuator comprises a stacked piezoelectric actuator which is extendable along the second axis, and the stacked piezoelectric actuator has a pair of end portions, one of the end
5 portions being connected to the movable member through the first guide mechanism.

42. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 41, wherein the first guide mechanism has a pair of elastic members provided on both sides of the movable member along the second axis.

43. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 15, further comprising:

a third actuator for moving the movable member along a third axis different from both the first axis and the second axis; and

5 a second guide mechanism for restricting movement of the movable member along the first axis.

44. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 43, wherein:

the second actuator comprises a stacked piezoelectric actuator which is extendable along the second axis, the stacked piezoelectric actuator having a pair of end portions, one of the end portions being connected to the movable member through the first guide mechanism, and the other one of the end portions being fixed, and

10 the third actuator comprises a stacked piezoelectric actuator which is extendable along the third axis, the stacked piezoelectric actuator having a pair of end portions, one of the end portions being connected to the movable member through the second guide mechanism, and the other one of the end portions being fixed.

45. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 44, wherein the first guide mechanism has a pair of elastic members provided on both sides of the movable member along the second axis, and

the second guide mechanism has a pair of elastic members provided
5 on both sides of the movable member along the third axis.

46 cont.
46. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 45, wherein
the end portion of the stacked piezoelectric actuator of the
second actuator connected to the movable member is connected to
the movable member through one of the elastic members of the
5 first guide mechanism, and the end portion of the stacked
piezoelectric actuator of the third actuator connected to the
movable member is connected to the movable member through one of
the elastic members of the second guide mechanism.

47. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 46, wherein
the elastic members of the first guide mechanism have relatively
high rigidity along the third axis but relatively low rigidity
along the second axis and, on the contrary, the elastic members
5 of the second guide mechanism have relatively high rigidity along
the second axis but relatively low rigidity along the third axis.

48. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 47, wherein
the elastic members of the first guide mechanism each include a
rectangular spring having an elongated slit extending along the
third axis, and the elastic members of the second guide mechanism
5 each include a rectangular spring having an elongated slit
extending along the second axis.

49. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 47, wherein

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5 mechanism include parallel springs supporting the movable member to be displaced along the third axis.

50. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 14, wherein a free end of the common cylindrical piezoelectric actuator holds the first actuator in the vicinity of one of the dimensional center and the center of gravity of the first actuator.

51. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 39, wherein at least one of the dimensional center and the center of gravity of the first actuator are in a vicinity of a thickness center of the movable member.

52. (New) The scanning unit according to claim 49, wherein at least one of the dimensional center and the center of gravity of the first actuator are in a vicinity of a thickness center of the movable member.
